In The Claims

The claims are amended or otherwise treated as listed below:

In response to the above requirement, amend the claims as listed below.

1. (*original*): Energetic material of low vapor pressure comprising, ionic liquids having fuel cations and oxidizer anions.
2. (*currently amended*): The material of claim 1 wherein said cations and anions are substantially oxygen balanced~~ or nearly so~~.
3. (*original*): The material of claim 1 wherein said ionic liquid has cations and anions that define a single type of ionic compound or a plurality of types of ionic compounds.
4. (*original*): The material of claim 1 wherein said cations are asymmetric.
5. (*original*): The material of claim 1 wherein said anions carry sufficient oxidants to achieve complete or near complete combustion of said cations.
6. (*currently amended*): The energetic material of claim 1 wherein said ionic liquids are selected from the group consisting of N-alkyl substituted pyridinium or N-alkyl substituted imidazolium cations paired with nitrato, perchlorato, or nitramido based anions.
7. (*original*): The energetic material of claim 6 wherein said N-alkyl substituents contain energetic groups consisting of azido- or nitro- groups.
8. (*original*): The energetic material of claim 6 wherein said cation is the 1-N-(*2,2*-dinitroethyl), 3-N-azidomethyl, 1,3-imidazolium cation.
9. (*original*): The energetic material of claim 6 wherein said cation is the 1-N-(*2*-trinitroethyl), 3-N-azidomethyl, 1,3-imidazolium cation and said anion is ClO_4^-, $N(NO_2)_2^-$, NO_3^-, or $C(NO_2)_3^-$.
10. (*original*): The energetic material of claim 6 wherein said cation is the 1-N-(*2*-trinitroethyl), pyridinium cation and said anion is ClO_4^-, $N(NO_2)_2^-$, NO_3^-, or $C(NO_2)_3^-$.
11. (*original*): The energetic material of claim 6 wherein said cations are $C_8H_{15}N_2$, $C_9H_{14}N$ or $C_6H_{11}N_2$.

12. (*original*): The energetic material of claim 6 wherein said anions and cations carry sufficient oxygen to achieve an $H_2O/CO/CO_2$ balance during self-combustion.

13. (*original*): The energetic material of claim 6 wherein said anions are selected from the group consisting of ClO_4^-, NO_3^-, $N(NO_2)_2^-$, $C(NO_2)_3^-$, $B(ONO_2)_4^-$, $Al(ONO_2)_4^-$, $Al(ONO_2)_5^{-2}$, $Al(ONO_2)_6^{-3}$, $P(ONO_2)_6^-$, $Ti(ONO_2)_5^-$, $Ti(ONO_2)_6^{-2}$, $B(OClO_3)_4^-$, $Al(OClO_3)_4^-$, $Al(OClO_3)_5^{-2}$, $Al(OClO_3)_6^{-3}$, $Ti(OClO_3)_5^-$, $Ti(OClO_3)_6^{-2}$, and $P(OClO_3)_6^-$.

14. (*original*): The energetic material of claim 6 comprising pairing a cation of 1-N,3-N-dialkylsubstituted imidazolium rings or 1-N-alkylsubstituted pyridinium rings with an anion of claim 9 to form an ionic liquid.

15. (*original*): The energetic materials of claim 11 wherein said ionic liquids are selected from the group consisting of $[C_6H_{11}N_2^+][B(ONO_2)_4^-]$, $[C_6H_{11}N_2^+][P(ONO_2)_6^-]$, $[C_8H_{15}N_2^+][B(OClO_3)_4^-]$, $[C_9H_{14}N^+][Al(OClO_3)_4^-]$ and $[C_6H_{11}N_2^+][Ti(ONO_2)_5^-]$.

16. (*original*): A method of preparing an energetic ionic liquid comprising reacting:

$$BCl_3 + [C_6H_{11}N_2^+][Cl^-] + xs\ N_2O_4 \rightarrow [C_6H_{11}N_2^+][B(ONO_2)_4^-] + 4NOCl.$$

17. (*original*): The ionic liquids of claim 1 employed in monopropellants, explosives, munitions or plasticizers.

18. (*original*): The ionic liquids of claim 1 employed in oxidation reactions and for synthesizing azo, nitro, nitrato, azoxy and nitroazoxy compounds.

19. (*previously presented*): The energetic material of claim 8 wherein said anion is $C10_4^-$.

20. (*withdrawn):* The energetic material of claim 8 wherein said anion is $N(NO_2)_2$.

21. *(new)* The material of claim 1 wherein said cations and anions are oxygen-balanced so as to achieve substantially complete combustion.